



News Release

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N.B. Human Rights Commission

Two Human Rights Commission members appointed (03/04/03)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) -- New Brunswick Human Rights Commission Chairman Patrick Malcolmson today welcomed the appointment of two additional members.

Rose-Marie Curry of Tracadie-Sheila was appointed to the commission for the first time, and Mary-Jane Ward of Red Bank First Nation was appointed for a second term. This brings the number of commission members to nine, including the chairman.

A native of Tracadie-Sheila, Rose-Marie Curry has worked for more than 29 years with special-needs children, as a methods and resource teacher, department head, and director of L'Éveil learning centre. She was instrumental in the development of various special education programs and above all in the integration of children with special needs in New Brunswick schools. She was a member of the special education institute and a founding member of La Fabrique sheltered workshop in Tracadie, and she is currently a member of the board of directors of Lynne Ferguson Inc. community residence. She is also active in the Acadian Peninsula chapter of the Kidney Foundation of Canada and the New Brunswick Medical Education Committee. Ms. Curry has been retired since June 2000.

Mary Jane Ward, M.Ed, has been the principal and a teacher of the Metepenagiag School in Red Bank First Nations since 1995. She is a former member of the New Brunswick Micmac / Maliseet Child Care Council, the New Brunswick Early Childhood Coalition and the School Parent Advisory Committee of the North/South Esk High School in Sunny Corner, N.B. Ward is very much involved in extracurricular, religious and other community activities, especially those involving youth, parenting skills, drugs and alcohol, and Native culture. In 1995, she was chosen National Native Role Model for the Atlantic provinces by Health and Welfare Canada and Kahnawake Social Services. Ward was first appointed to the Human Rights Commission in 1999.

"These two additional members further expand the range of experience and perspective that the Commission can tap into," Malcolmson said.

"The human rights issues before the Commission are often complex, as they involve competing rights, evolving legal standards and conflicting allegations. The Commission also faces the challenging task of finding cost-effective means of promoting respect and of ensuring that New Brunswickers understand their rights and responsibilities. Fortunately, our members are well qualified to undertake these responsibilities and they take them very seriously."

Dr. Malcolmson is a Political Science professor at St Thomas University in Fredericton. The other

commission members are Malcolm Harris of Saint John, Jean-Claude Jalbert of Grand Falls, André LeBlanc of Moncton, Alanna Palmer of Fredericton, David J. Peters, CCdC, of Saint John and Dr. Gordon L. Porter of Woodstock.

The Human Rights Commission administers the provincial Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination and harassment based on 12 personal characteristics mainly in employment, public services and housing. The Commission meets as a board several times a year, mainly to decide which complaints should be referred to conciliation or to a Board of Inquiry hearing. It also reviews the investigation, conciliation and education work of its staff and sets policies and priorities.

03/04/03

EDITOR'S NOTE: Biographical notes on the other members of the commission are available online at: <http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/members.htm>. MEDIA CONTACT: Francis Young, Human Rights Officer, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 1-506-453-2308.

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